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(b) how many were actually appointed and how many were rejected;

(c) the reasons for the rejection of the applications; and

(d) whether the Government took into consideration the need of a Medical Officer, specialized in eye-diseases for the headquarters hospital when the above recommended applications were considered?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The recommendations made by the District Medical Officer are confidential. Two were appointed.

(d) In making honorary appointments, the Government took into consideration the qualifications of the applicants and the need for their services in the hospitals.

Mr. N. SRINIVASA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. Minister, how many were recommended by the District Medical Officer?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"The recommendations made by the District Medical Officer are confidential."

Mr. N. SRINIVASA RAO:—"May I know how many have actually applied for these posts?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"It is not desirable to divulge the information."

Mr. N. SRINIVASA RAO:—"As regards clause (d), may I know whether an eye-specialist was recommended by the District Medical Officer, South Kanara, and if so, why he was not appointed?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"Notice, Sir. I do not remember all the recommendations that were made."

Diet scales in Government hospitals in Madras.

* 1766 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have scrutinized the diet scales introduced into the several Government hospitals in Madras and whether they have found them adequate according to the needs of the patients;

(b) what differences exist between the scales of diets and the methods of preparing them in regard to Indians and Europeans;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian wards in any of the hospitals are usually over-crowded, while European wards are practically empty;

(d) what are the various agencies adopted in the several hospitals for accurate receipt of raw rations, from day to day, for supervision of the cooking in the kitchen and diet and distribution thereof without leakage and adulteration and waste, and for checking in the linen department; and

(e) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce or contemplate introducing an uniform system so as to ensure efficiency and economy in the expenditure of money on the kitchen, diet and linen departments and at the same time satisfy the patients?

A.—(a) The diet scales in force were prepared by an expert committee of medical officers appointed by the Government for the purpose. The scales are reported to be adequate.

(b) A statement [a] showing the different scales of diet is laid on the table.

[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 940–941 infra.

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(c) The Government are not aware of the fact.

(d) As regards the arrangements made in the kitchen and diet departments, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given to his question No. 1652 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 1st March 1928.

In regard to the linen department, regular accounts are maintained in prescribed books and forms showing the receipts and issues of linen in all departments of the hospitals. The accounts are verified once a quarter by the Superintendents of the hospitals or under their orders by other responsible officers. They are also audited by the staff of the Accountant-General's office.

(e) Following the arrangement made in the Rayapuram Hospital, the Government propose to appoint two nuns in the Government Ophthalmic Hospital for the immediate supervision of the kitchen and diet departments. They have no other proposal under consideration.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"The answer given to clause (c) is that the Government are not aware of the fact. May I ask whether Government have made enquiries on the subject?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—"There are about 200 hospitals in the Presidency and to get detailed information from all of them will take a long time."

Location of a Gosha hospital at Ellore.

*1767 Q.—Mr. M. NARASIMHA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Gosha hospitals in the West Godavari district;

(b) whether the Government have received mahazars from the people of Ellore taluk requesting the Government to take steps for the location of a Gosha hospital at Ellore, the headquarters of the district; and

(c) if so, what is the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

A.—(a) None.

(b) & (c) No such mahazar has been received.

Establishment of a home for the treatment of mentally defective children.

*1768 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the establishment of a home for the special treatment of mentally defective children was under the consideration of the Government in 1927 or 1928; and

(b) whether any provision has been made for it in the next budget?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.